

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

VOE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 JUSE-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/106 W

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R 172358 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5488

UNCLAS MEXICO 2626

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR/ MX

SUBJ: US TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS

REFS: MEXICO 2589; MEXICO 2563

1. TOPIC OF TREATMENT OF MEXICAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAS SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE EDITORIAL AND OTHER COMMENT IN APRIL 17 PRESS. AS SYNTHESIZED BELOW, MOST EDITORIALISTS CALL FOR AT LEAST MINIAML ACTION ON PART OF GOM IN INVESTIGATING CHARGES OF COLLUSION AND LEGACLY QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS IN TRANSPORTING MEXICAN NATIONALS FORCIBLY WITHIN NATIONAL TERRITORY.

2. IN ONE SEMI- OFFICIAL REACTION, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL PEASANTS FEDERATION (CNC-- ONE OF THE FORMAL SECTORS OF THE PRI) BLAMED UNSCRUPULOUS LABOR CONTRACTORS ON US SIDE FOR MANY OF ILLS SUFFERED BY ILLEGALS. HE WENT ON TO STRESS ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES AIMED AT ALLEVIATING RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND HENCE REDUCING PRESSURES FOR EMIGRATION.

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, " EL DIA" TERMED SITUATION REPORTED IN " NEW YORK TIMES" SCANDALOUS" AND STATED THAT IT POINTED OUT TWO EQUALLY VICIOUS FACTS: " CORRUPTION

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EXISTING IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL CIRCLES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY (US) AND ENORMOUS UNEMPLOYMENT EXISTING AMONG INHABITANTS OF MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE". " EL DIA" WENT ON TO QUANTIFY AS UNDEREMPLOYED " BETWEEN 40 AND 50 PERCENT OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION". " EXCELSIOR", AFTER REITERATING ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF US OFFICIALS IN CORRUPT TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGALS, STATED " THIS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE... IF IT WERE NOT FOR COMPLACENCY OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES, WHO, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, TOLERATED THIS SITUATION." " EXCELSIOR" WENT ON TO STATE THAT IT IS BASIC NOT ONLY TO ELIMINATE EXPLOITATION AND ASSURE APPLICATION OF LAW, " BUT ALSO TO RECOGNIZE THAT BRACERO MOVEMENT IS A REALITY WHICH CANNOT BE EVADED AND MORE PROPERLY SHOULD BE MANAGED BY A TREATY". " EL HERALDO" CALLED FOR AN END TO SITUATION AND STATED THAT MEXICAN OFFICIALS ARE OBLIGED TO CARRY OUT REQUIRED INVESTIGATIONS " CASTIGATING THOSE RESPONSIBLE WITH APPROPRIATE RIGOR". " NOVEDADES" ALSO CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF MEXICANS INVOCED; PAPER THEN GOES ON TO LIKEN PROBLEM TO SLAVE TRAFFICKING. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT CONDITIONS IN RURAL MEXICO ARE AT ROOT OF EMIGRATION, " NOVEDADES" CONSIDERS THAT NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT IS ALSO IN ORDER.

4. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, " NOVEDADES " PICKED UP UPI WASHINGTON STORY TO EFFECT THAT APPEALS COURT HAD RULED THAT TEMPORARY MEXICAN WORKERS IN US MUST HAVE PROPER VISAS. DECISION MADE IN CASE BROUGHT BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION AGAINST INS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO02626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730445/aaaairkp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MEXICO 2589, 73 MEXICO 2563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Nov-2001 by averetam>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980123
Subject: US TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS
TAGS: PFOR, MX, n/a
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005